

Remarks:

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for an indication that claims 1-17 are allowed and claims 20-25 and 27-32 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1-17, 20-25, and 27-32 are pending in this application. Claims 20 and 27 are rewritten in independent form including all limitations of their respective base claims, 18 and 26. There were no intervening claims. Claims 18, 19, and 26 are hereby cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Dependent claims 21-25 each depend from currently amended independent claim 20. Dependent claims 28-32 each depend from currently amended independent claim 27. Dependent claims 21-25 and 28-32 have not been amended to independent form. Respectfully, such an amendment is not required as each of the above-recited dependent claims now depend from an allowable independent claim.

The Office Action rejects claims 18, 19, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,139,659 to Scott. Claims 18, 19, and 26 are cancelled and therefore the rejection of those claims is moot.

The drawings filed on November 28, 2001 were objected to by the Office Action. New formal drawings correcting all objections raised on the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (attached to Paper No. 5) are attached hereto. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all objections to the drawings.

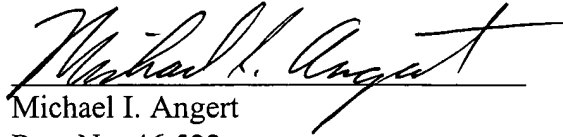
The claims are allowable for the reasons set forth above. A Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge all required fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account 11-0600.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments (Formal Drawings, 16 sheets, FIGS. 1-16)